

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03
/053 W

-----062706 260447Z /15

R 251119Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8394

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SINGAPORE 3689

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SN, UK

SUBJ: SIA-BA JOINT VENTURE FOR CONCORDE FLIGHTS

1. TWO BRITISH AIRWAYS OFFICIALS ARE VISITING SINGAPORE TO
ARRANGE FOR EXTENSION OF LONDON-BAHRAIN BA CONCORDE FLIGHTS
TO SINGAPORE. BA HOPES FOR THRICE-WEEKLY SERVICE INTO SINGAPORE
BY OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER.

2. ACCORDING TO SIA PLANNING DIRECTOR, CONCORDE SERVICE WILL
BE EITHER UNDER SIA LIVERY WITH AIRCRAFT LEASED FROM THE MANU-
FACTURER OR AS A JOINT VENTURE WITH BA, SIA PROVIDING CABIN
CREW FOR ALTERNATE FLIGHTS OR FOR SINGAPORE-BAHRAIN SEGMENT.
UNDER LATTER ARRANGEMENT, BOTH AIRLINES WOULD PROMOTE AND SELL
TICKETS FOR THE SERVICE.

3. GOS MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS STAFFER SAYS THERE HAVE
BEEN NO GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DISCUSSIONS OF LANDING RIGHTS,
BUT NO PROBLEM IS ANTICIPATED IF TWO AIRLINES DECIDE TO
COMMENCE SERVICE.

4. PROPOSED SERVICE WOULD CUT TRAVEL TIME LONDON-SINGAPORE TO
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TEN FLYING HOURS WITH FORTY-MINUTE STOPOVER IN BAHRAIN. FARE
WOULD BE STANDARD FIRST-CLASS PLUS 20 PERCENT.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE HAVE NO WAY OF ASSESSING THE COMMERCIAL
VIABILITY OF SUCH A SERVICE, BUT DOUBT THAT IT WILL DO MUCH
TO ALLEVIATE THE ECONOMIC DISTRESS OF THE CONCORDE PROJECT.
SINGAPORE WILL CERTAINLY WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE ASSOCIATED

WITH THIS STATE-OF-THE-ART AIRCRAFT, BUT SINCE THE SERVICE HERE UNDOUBTEDLY MEANS MORE TO THE BRITISH THAN TO THE GOS, IT IS LIKELY THAT SIA WILL ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT THAT SHELTERS THEM FROM THE BULK OF OPERATING LOSSES ON THE ROUTE.

6. ALTHOUGH CONCORDE FLIGHTS INTO THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WILL PASS OVER SOME DENSELY INHABITED AREAS, THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION WILL NOT BE A FACTOR IN THE DECISION TO PROCEED. WHEN CHANGI AIRPORT, AT THE EASTERN TIP OF SINGAPORE, IS OPERATIONAL IN 1980 OR SO, EVEN THAT MINOR PROBLEM WILL BE ALLEVIATED. HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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